

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01680 251535Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 DHA-02 MCT-01 IO-13 /090 W

-----067146 251949Z /72

R 251450Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7842

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 1680

E.O. 11652: N/A - DECON 31 JULY 1979

TAGS: ASEC, PBOR, PORS, MR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH EMBASSY TIGHTENS SECURITY

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 1522 (NOTAL), (B) NOUAKCHOTT 1562 (NOTAL)

1. IN WAKE OF JULY 3 POLISARIO ATTACK ON NOUAKCHOTT, FRENCH EMBASSY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY TIGHTENED SECURITY ON CHANCERY AND ON 18 HECTARE OFFICE BUILDING/RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND. UNIFORMED FRENCH NATIONAL GENDARME IS NOW POSTED IN LOBBY OF CHANCERY; STEEL GRILL AND GLASS DOORS OF CHANCERY MAIN ENTRANCE ARE NOW KEPT CLOSED; VISITORS ARE IDENTIFIED, ADMITTED, AND CONTROLLED INSIDE CHANCERY; COMPOUND ENTRY GATES ARE KEPT CLOSED DURING DAY AND LOCKED AFTER OFFICE HOURS.

2. ACTION TO TIGHTEN SECURITY REFLECTS TWO FACTORS ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICIAL: (A) STAFF OF FRENCH EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT CAME TO RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAD IN PAST FAILED TO EXERCISE EVEN BASIC SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. EVENTS OF JULY 3 PROMPTED IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION; (B) QUAI D'ORSAY FINALLY RECOGNIZED THREAT TO SECURITY OF FRENCH PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS IN MAURITANIA, AND RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO LONG-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01680 251535Z

STANDING EMBASSY REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT OF DETACHMENT OF GENDARMES TO NOUAKCHOTT.

3. FROM LOCAL CONTRACTOR WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FRENCH HAVE INVITED BIDS ON CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST SEGMENT OF VERY EXPENSIVE MASONRY AND WROUGHT IRON WALL ALONG CURRENTLY UNPROTECTED REAR PERIMETER OF OFFICE/RESIDENTIAL COMPOUND

(REPORTEDLY 3 METERS HIGH AND SOME 2500 METERS IN LENGTH).  
SECTION ENCLOSING AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE (ORIGINALLY 500 M,  
NOW 350 METERS) IS TO BE BUILT FIRST. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE,  
PREVIOUS FRENCH AMBASSADOR REGULARLY RECEIVED NEGATIVE RESPONSES  
FROM QUAI TO HIS REPEATED REQUEST FOR FUNDS FOR SECURITY WARG.  
IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT WHETHER QUAVYAS AT LAST  
RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY, ON MODEL OF GENDARME GUARDS, OR  
WHETHER NEW AMBASSADOR HAS PRESSED AHEAD WITH DESIGN AND BID  
ESTIMAT AS PART OF RENEWED CAMPAIGN TO PRY FUNDS OUT OF  
PARIS.

4. COMMENT: ONE: ALTHOUGH FRENCH EMBOFF DID NOT MENTION  
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR IN PARIS  
AS ONE OF STIMULI TO QUAI ACTION IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH  
U.S. POST SECURITY OFFICER, JULY 7 SHOOTING WAS UNDOUBTEDLY  
IMPORTANT FACT IN GALCTIZING BOTH PARIS AND NOUAKCHOTT  
INTO ACTION. TWO: SCARCELY THREE WEEKS AFTER NEW  
SECURITY MEASURES WERE PUT INTO EFFECT, FRENCH SUPERVISORS ARE  
ALREADY ENCOUNTERING CULTURALLY ROOTED INABILITY OF AVERAGE  
MAURITANIAN TO SUSTAIN A STATE OF ALERT; LOCAL GUARDS ON  
COMPOUND GATES HAVE ALREADY LAPSED BACK INTO LETHARGY OF LAX  
ACCESS CONTROL. FRENCH EMBOFFS, LIKE THEIR MAURITANIAN  
MILITARY COUNTERPARTS, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COME TO DISCOVER THAT  
CORRECTING THIS PRIMARY VULNERABILITY IS TOUGHEST TASK THEY  
FACE.

HANDYSIDE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01680 251535Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NOUAKC01680  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770264-1331  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NOUAKCHOTT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770723/aaaaathr.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 65c88264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 NOUAKCHOTT 1522, 77 NOUAKCHOTT 1562  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1760131  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH EMBASSY TIGHTENS SECURITY  
**TAGS:** ASEC, PBOR, PORS, PDIP, MR, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/65c88264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009